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DOCTOR WHO™

COLLECTED COMICS

J. RIDGWAY

The SHAPE SHIFTER

Script: Steve Parkhouse Art: John Ridgway Editor: Alan McKenzie

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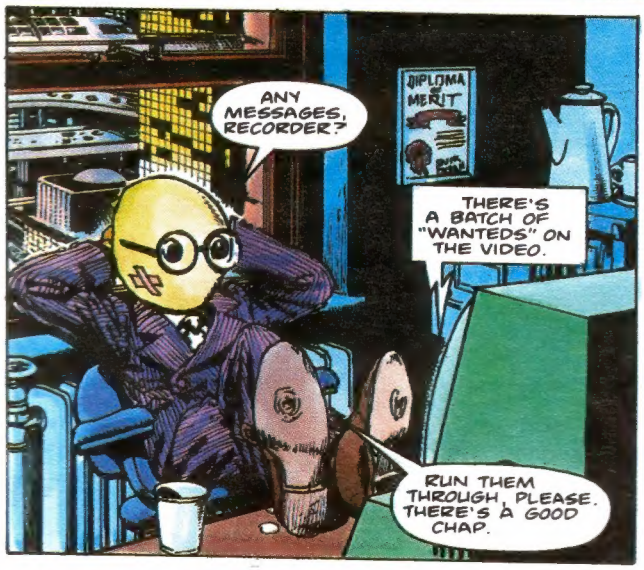
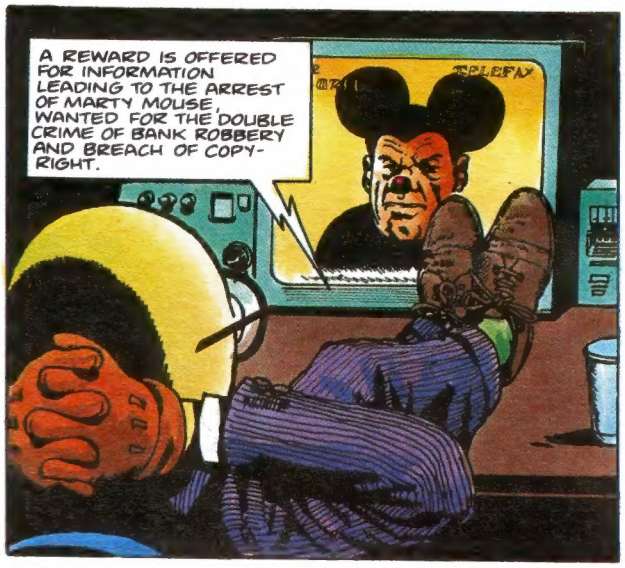
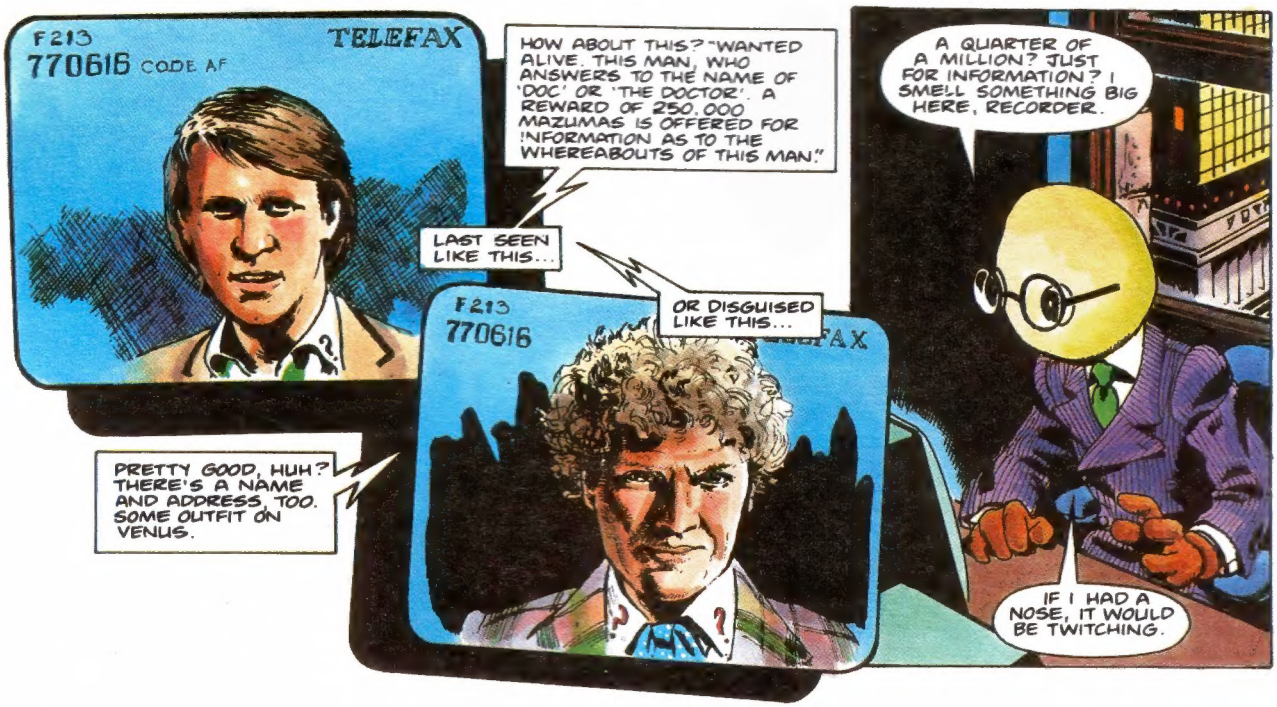
SNEAKY? YOU SAID IT...
BUT THE WHIFFERDILL HAD A CRUST TO EARN, JUST LIKE ANYBODY ELSE. AND BESIDES, HE WAS GOOD AT IT...
YES, THIS PARTICULAR WHIFFERDILL WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AS A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR..
BUT NO GREAT SHAKES AS A PIGEON...
FOR EVEN IN THE CITY, PREDATORS ABOUND...
WHEEEEEEEEEEEE
CLOMP!
AAARGH!

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, THE WHIFFERDILL MADE A SOFT LANDING...
CLONGGG!
AND FINDING ITS NEW SURROUNDINGS AMENABLE, INSTINCTIVELY CHANGED TO SUIT THE OCCASION...
LESSEE WHUT'S FERDINNER... HEH, HEH.. HIC!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
WELLL WHUDDYA KNOW? ITSABURGER... I COULD RILLY MURDER A BURGER... YEP...
UNK
AAAARGH!
LEMME OUTTA HERE!
FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THE SPACE OF MERE MINUTES THE WHIFFERDILL HAD BEEN THOUGHT OF AS JUST PROTEIN. IT HAD FORGOTTEN ITS OWN PERSONAL MOTTO: "HE WHO HESITATES IS LUNCH."

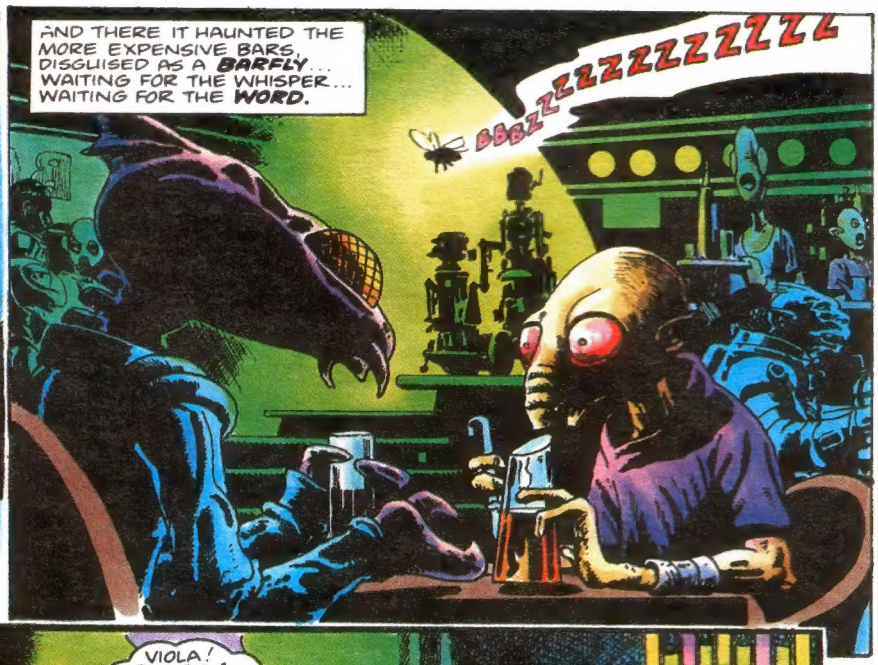
OVER THE NEXT TWO HOURS IT RAN THE GAUNTLET OF THOSE MEAN STREETS, HUNTED AND HAUNTED BY EVERY NIGHT-STALKER IN THE CITY'S UNDERWORLD...UNTIL...
MADE IT! JUST ONE SHORT DASH AND I'M HOME...
AYAN TARKLU PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR
I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!
I'M WASTING MY LIFE. HERE I AM, FORTY FIVE YEARS OLD, A CLASSICAL EDUCATION...AND WHAT AM I DOING?
RUMMAGING IN DUSTBINS!


ANY MESSAGES, RECORDER?
DIPLOMA MERIT
THERE'S A BATCH OF "WANTEDS" ON THE VIDEO.
RUN THEM THROUGH, PLEASE. THERE'S A GOOD CHAP.


A REWARD IS OFFERED FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF MARTY MOUSE, WANTED FOR THE DOUBLE CRIME OF BANK ROBBERY AND BREACH OF COPY-RIGHT.
TELEFAX


F213
770616 CODE AF
TELEFAX
HOW ABOUT THIS? "WANTED ALIVE. THIS MAN, WHO ANSWERS TO THE NAME OF 'DOC' OR 'THE DOCTOR'. A REWARD OF 250,000 MAZUMAS IS OFFERED FOR INFORMATION AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THIS MAN."
LAST SEEN LIKE THIS...
OR DISGUISED LIKE THIS...
F213
770616
PRETTY GOOD, HUH? THERE'S A NAME AND ADDRESS, TOO. SOME OUTFIT ON VENUS.
A QUARTER OF A MILLION? JUST FOR INFORMATION? I SMELL SOMETHING BIG HERE, RECORDER.
IF I HAD A NOSE, IT WOULD BE TWITCHING.

SO THE WHIFFERDILL TOOK OFF ONCE AGAIN... HEADING DOWNTOWN. DOWN TO THE BRIGHTEST, BRASSIEST STRIP IN THE WHOLE GALAXY...


AND THERE IT HAUNTED THE MORE EXPENSIVE BARS, DISGUISED AS A BARFLY... WAITING FOR THE WHISPER... WAITING FOR THE WORD.
BBBZZZZZZZZZZZZ

AFTER FOUR NIGHTS OF BAR-CRAWLING, THE WHIFFERDILL STRUCK LUCKY.
VIOLA! BINGO! IT'S THE MAN HIMSELF!
PINK ELEPHANT GIN

NOW, IF I JUST PARK MYSELF ON THE RIM OF HIS GLASS I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. I MIGHT EVEN SLIP 'IM A MICKEY BEFORE THE NIGHT'S OUT.
WHAT IS THIS STUFF HE'S DRINKING ANYWAY? MMMM... CHOCOLATE SODA...

EXCUSE ME A MOMENT, SIR...
WHAT..?
?
FWAT

I'LL GET YOU ANOTHER DRINK, SIR. THERE SEEMS TO BE A FOREIGN BODY IN THIS ONE...
OH, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER...

I WAS JUST LEAVING.

HELP! GASP...GLUB... HALP!

JUST BEFORE IT HIT THE SINK, THE WHIFFERDILL MANAGED A QUICK CHANGE...

THEN NARROWLY AVOIDED A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH THE SEWER MAINS BY A FURTHER LIGHTNING SHIFT...
HEY...I'M GETTING GOOD. I'M GETTING FAST.... I'M GETTING EXHAUSTED.

HUP! WOULDYA LOOK AT... I ACTUALLY MADE IT OUT HERE BEFORE HE DID.
THEY SAY IT'S QUICKER BY DRAIN..
UHH... SIR...WAIT UP. JUST A DOGGONE MINUTE THERE...

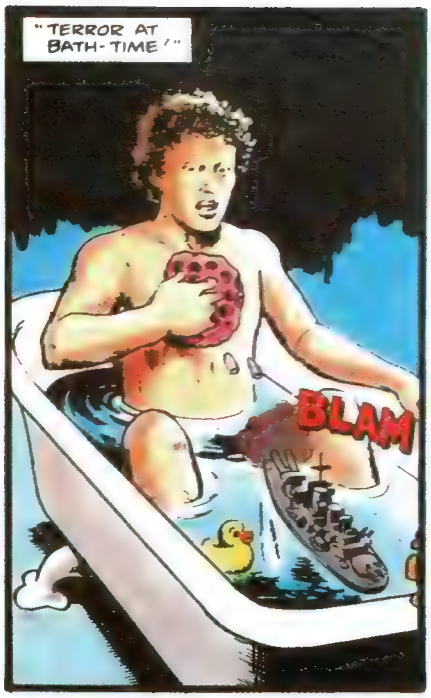
WELL, THE INFORMATION IS PILING UP. I CAN'T SEE ANY REASON FOR STAYING HERE MUCH LONGER...
I KNOW WHO THE MODERATOR WAS...AND WHO HE WORKED FOR

NEXT PORT OF CALL: VENUS.
POLICE BOX
TWO SHADOWS DETACHED THEMSELVES FROM THE DARKNESS... LAUNCHED THEMSELVES AT THE DOCTOR, VIBRO-KNIVES HUMMING...
ZZIIIIITT
CRAK!
FREEZE, CREEP! DON'T MOVE... DON'T EVEN BREATHE!

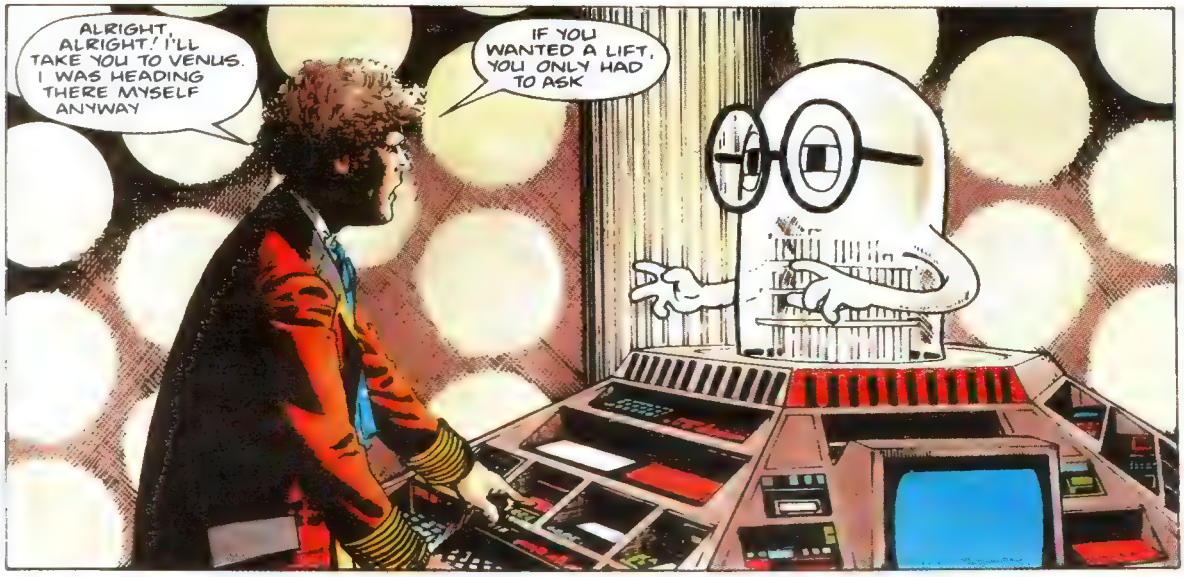
OH, NO YOU DON'T! THIS PIGEON'S MINE! I'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD TO LET HIM GO!
POK
WHUMP!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I COULD'VE SWORN I SAW A...NO... IT COULDN'T BE!
I KNEW IT. I KNEW I'D GO CRAZY IF I STAYED LONG ENOUGH IN THIS GODFORSAKEN SPOT.
IT'S TIME TO GET UP AND GO...
NEW CO-ORDINATES, DESTINATION GREENBACK BAY...VENUS!
AHHH...JUST A MINUTE THERE, SPORT.
I THINK IT'S TIME WE DECIDED WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS TRIP, HMMM? NOT TO MENTION WHO'S GOING WHERE... AND WHO'S DOING WHAT TO WHO?
OR SHOULD THAT BE WHOM?

THE TARDIS HAS BEEN INFILTRATED!
THIS IS A HI-JACK! YOU AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE WITHOUT MY SAY SO...
FACE IT, ACE...I'VE GOT THE DROP ON YOU!
WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE YOU? IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?
NO JOKE, BABE. EITHER YOU FLY THIS CRATE TO VENUS, OR YOU'LL LIVE TO REGRET IT.
ARE YOU THREATENING ME?
LISTEN, I'VE BEEN THREATENED BY EXPERTS, YOU KNOW. CYBERMEN, ICE WARRIORS, DALEKS... BBC PRODUCERS...
I'M A WHIFFERDILL, ACE.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN INTIMIDATE ME?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT HERE? DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH?
IS THAT COMIN' THROUGH CLEAR ENOUGH?
OH, NO!
'FRAID SO, MI AMIGO. YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT THE SCOURGE OF THE GALAXY, SENOR. I'M PUBLIC PARASITE NUMBER ONE. NUMERO UNO, C'EST MOI!
SO EITHER YOU GET ME TO VENUS, KEMO SABAY... OR YOU'LL SUDDENLY FIND YOUR LIFE FULL OF HASSLES. LIKE...

"SANDWICHES THAT BITE BACK!"
YEOOW!
JAM


"TERROR AT BATH-TIME!"
BLAM

"SHOES THAT FLY AWAY WITH YOU!"


ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT! I'LL TAKE YOU TO VENUS. I WAS HEADING THERE MYSELF ANYWAY
IF YOU WANTED A LIFT, YOU ONLY HAD TO ASK

A LIFT? YOU POPPED YOUR CORK, MAHAVIRA? I'M TURNING YOU IN!
TURNING ME IN? TURNING ME IN FOR WHAT?

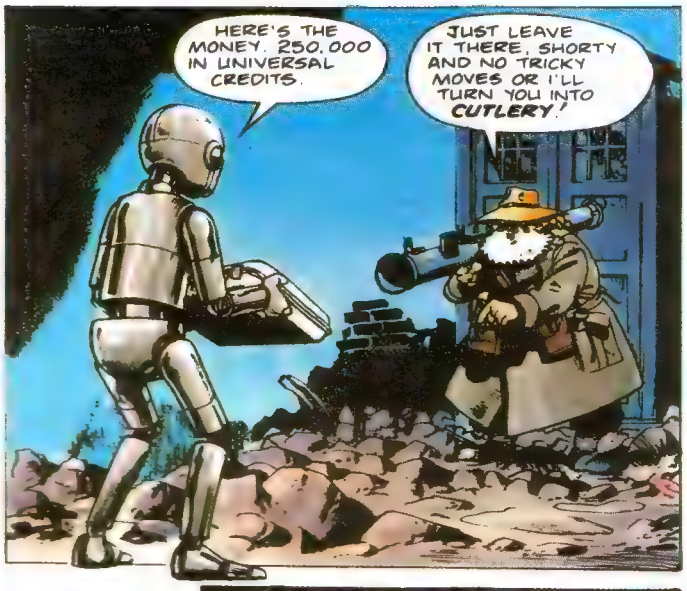
FOR EXACTLY 250,000 MAZUMAS, OUR KID ONE QUARTER MILLION PRECISELY

NOT FAR AWAY AND A SHORT WHILE LATER...
INC
INTRAVENUS INC
VWORP! VWORP!
THE DOCTOR'S ARRIVAL DID NOT GO UNNOTICED...
KLAXONS BLARED, ALARMS RANG, SECURITY GUARDS RUSHED HITHER AND YON ...ALL ANNOUNCING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT THEY PROTECTED...
NOTIFY MISTER DOGBOLTER!
MR. DOGBOLTER WAS NOTIFIED...
IT'S A TRAP. IT'S A SCAM. I'M NOT GONNA FALL FOR IT.
BUT THE THING'S ON THE ROOF, MISTER DOGBOLTER.
THEN KNOCK IT OFF!
BUT EVACUATE THE BUILDING FIRST.

THIS IS... AH... OUTRIDER ONE ZERO ONE TO IV. CONTROL... HAVE VISUAL CONTACT WITH TARGET.
GOING IN FOR DOUBLE STRIKE... ONE MEGATON... REPEAT... ONE MEGATON.
FWAAAAAM!
BAKOOOOM!
NOW?
NOW.

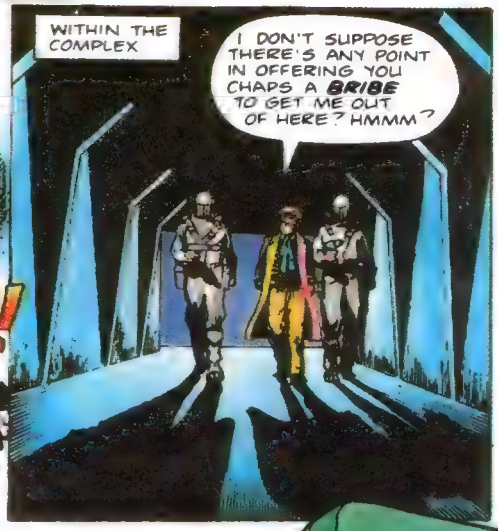
IT'S SOME KIND OF DEAL. THERE'S A BOUNTY HUNTER SAYS HE'S CAPTURED THE TIME-CRAFT AND ITS OPERATOR
HE'S CLAIMING THE REWARD
HE'S PREPARED TO EXCHANGE THE OPERATOR FIRST FOR 250,000 MAZUMAS.
THEN THE TIME-CRAFT ITSELF FOR A FURTHER 500,000 MAZUMAS.
AGREE TO THE FIRST PART I WANT THAT TIME-LORD.
ARRANGE A STRAIGHT TRADE, NO TRICKS GET THE TIME-LORD UNDER GUARD AND INTO THE INNER COMPLEX.
AND SO
C'MON... MOVE IT, YA TWO-TIMIN' DROTCHNIK. COME AND GET HIM, BILGE-RATS... HE'S ALL YOURS AND WELCOME..

THROW THE SCUTBAG INTO THE DEEPEST DUNGEON YOU C'N FIND AND THROW AWAY THE KEY!

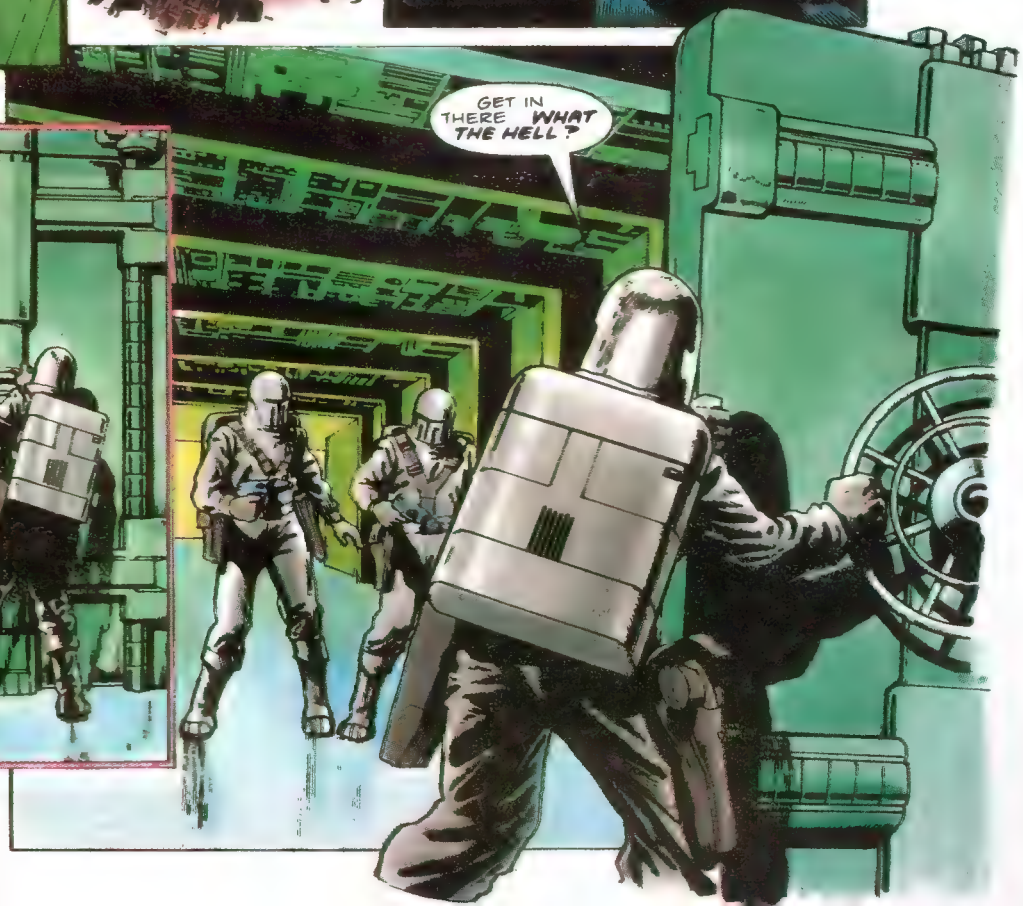

HERE'S THE MONEY. 250,000 IN UNIVERSAL CREDITS.
JUST LEAVE IT THERE, SHORTY AND NO TRICKY MOVES OR I'LL TURN YOU INTO CUTLERY!

NOW TELL YOUR MEN TO BACK OFF UNTIL I'M WELL CLEAR.

VWORP!
VWORP!


WITHIN THE COMPLEX
I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S ANY POINT IN OFFERING YOU CHAPS A BRIBE TO GET ME OUT OF HERE? HMMM?

NO I THOUGHT NOT


GET IN THERE WHAT THE HELL?

WHERE DID HE GO?
WHO?
WHAT?
THE PRISONER! IT MUST BE ONE OF YOU!
BUT WHICH ONE?
HOW DO WE KNOW IT'S NOT YOU?
I'M TAKING NO CHANCES!
BLAM!
YOU'RE CRAZY! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
WHABB!
HE'S OUT FOR THE COUNT. IT'S UP TO THE DOC NOW.
COME ON, ACE... START STRUTTIN' YOUR STUFF

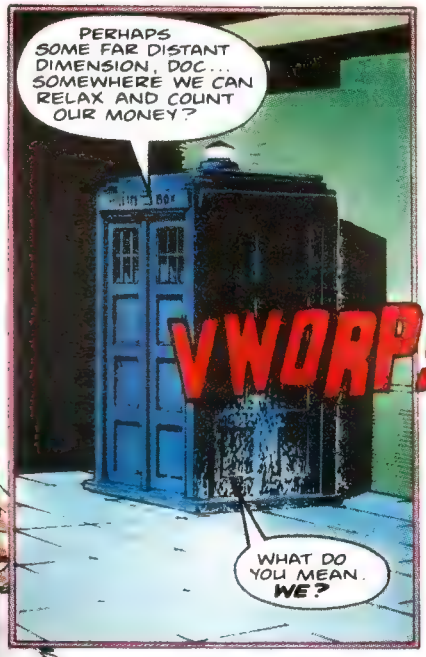
RIGHT ON CUE!
VWORP!
VWORP!

MAKE WAY, M'BOY. IT'S THE STAR OF THE SHOW

I RAISE MY HAT TO YOU, SIR AND OFFER YOU THIS LITTLE SNIPPET OF ADVICE
ANYTHING WORTH HAVING IS WORTH CHEATING FOR.

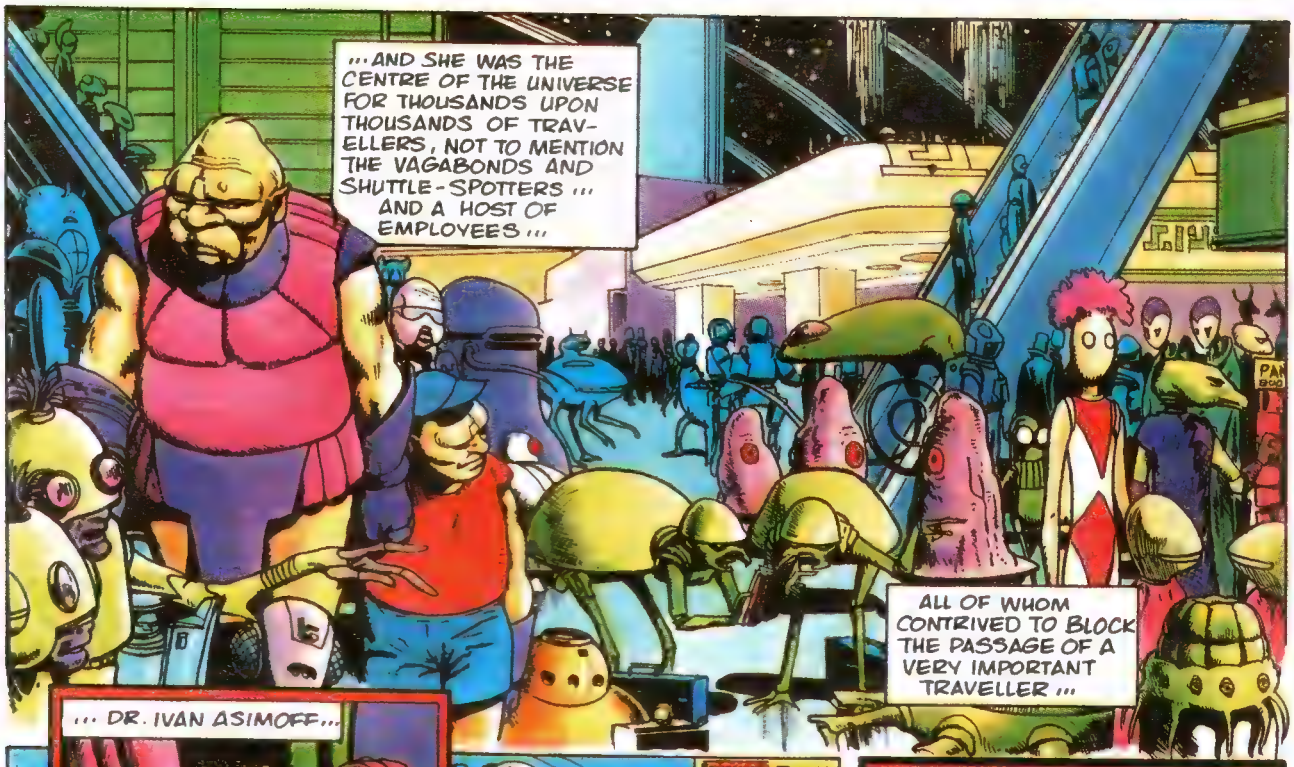
AND 250,000 MAZUMAS IS WORTH HAVING
125,000 IS FOR ME. THE DEAL WAS FIFTY-FIFTY REMEMBER?

NOW WE'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE. DOGBOLTER WILL THROW EVERYTHING HE'S GOT AT US... AND I'D LIKE TO BE LONG GONE.

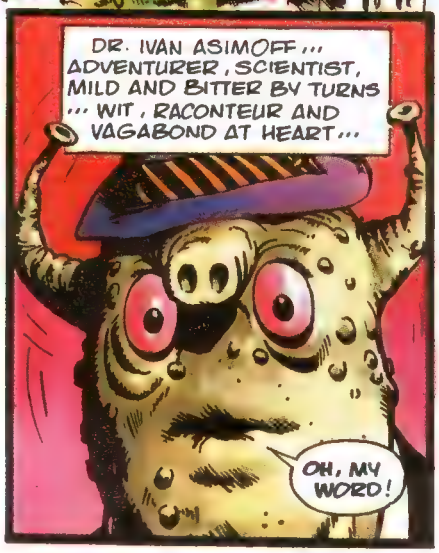

PERHAPS SOME FAR DISTANT DIMENSION, DOC... SOMEWHERE WE CAN RELAX AND COUNT OUR MONEY?
VWORP!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN. WE?

I'VE DECIDED TO STICK AROUND, DOC WITH MY BRAINS AND YOUR BEAUTY WE COULD DO GREAT THINGS. WHADDYA SAY?
DO I HAVE ANY CHOICE?
NOPE
VWORP!
FUNNY I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT...

Script: Steve Parkhouse Art: John Ridgway Editor: Alan McKenzie


...AND SHE WAS THE CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE FOR THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF TRAVELLERS, NOT TO MENTION THE VAGABONDS AND SHUTTLE-SPOTTERS ... AND A HOST OF EMPLOYEES ...
ALL OF WHOM CONTRIVED TO BLOCK THE PASSAGE OF A VERY IMPORTANT TRAVELLER ...

... DR. IVAN ASIMOFF...
MAY I ... I SAY MAY I GET PAST, PLEASE? OH, DEAR ... I SAY MAY I GET PAST?
SOME OF US HAVE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO, YOU KNOW!


DR. IVAN ASIMOFF ... ADVENTURER, SCIENTIST, MILD AND BITTER BY TURNS ... WIT, RACONTEUR AND VAGABOND AT HEART...
OH, MY WORD!

AUTHORITY ON THE LIFE-CYCLE OF THE SIGMAN SAND-WORM ... AND WHAT'S MORE, AN INVINCIBLE ALLY.
IT'S A TARDIS!* IT'S THE TARDIS!
*THE DOCTORS MET IN DR. WHO MONTHLY 56 —ED.

DOCTOR!

AAGHH!
CLONK!

AH, WELL... TIME TO LOOK AROUND FOR FOOD I THINK...

DOCTOR!
OOF!

I'M SO SORRY! I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEBODY ELSE!
THAT'S STRANGE, SO DID I.

IN FACT... I AM SOMEBODY ELSE!

YOU SEE, I COULD HAVE SWORN THIS WAS A TARDIS. THE TARDIS! THE ONLY ONE I'VE EVER SEEN, ANYWAY!
AND I WAS HOPING THE DOCTOR WOULD BE HERE.
HE IS. HE'S INSIDE.

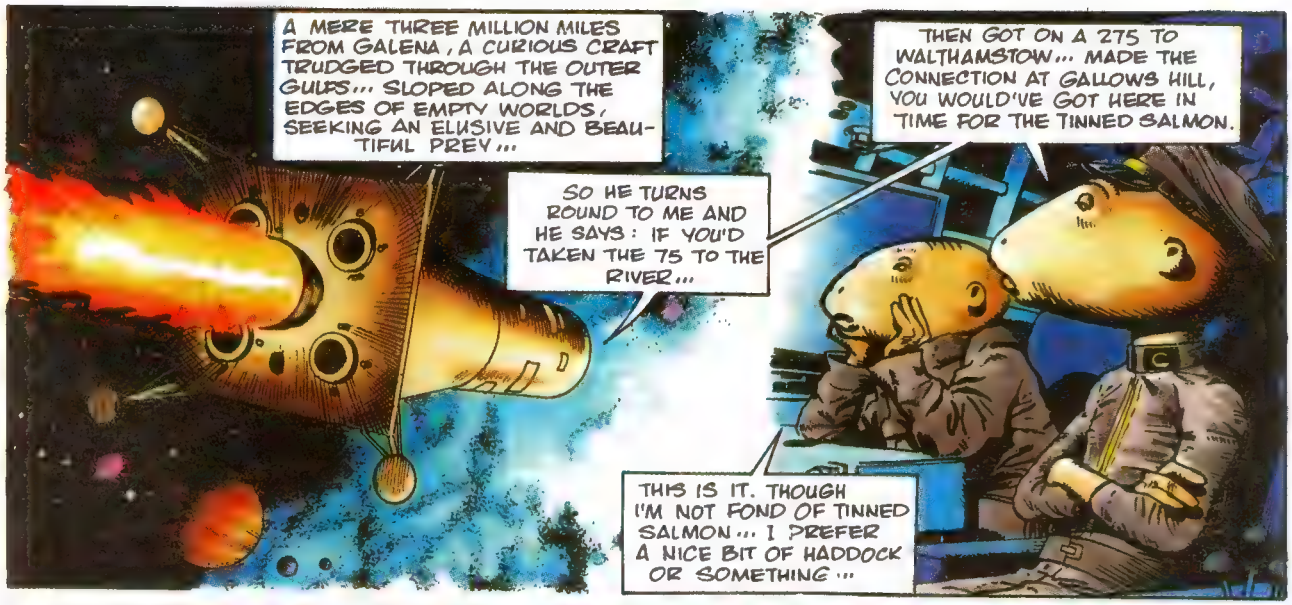
POLICE
NO HE ISN'T. HE'S COMING OUT.

WELL, WELL ... DOCTOR ASIMOFF, HOW WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU!

I'M AFRAID I HAVEN'T HAD THE PLEASURE, SIR.
OF COURSE. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

YOU SEE, I'VE... CHANGED MY APPEARANCE SINCE WE LAST MET. SEVERAL TIMES IN FACT.
AN UNFORTUNATE NECESSITY...
YOU MEAN, YOU'RE SOMEBODY ELSE, TOO?

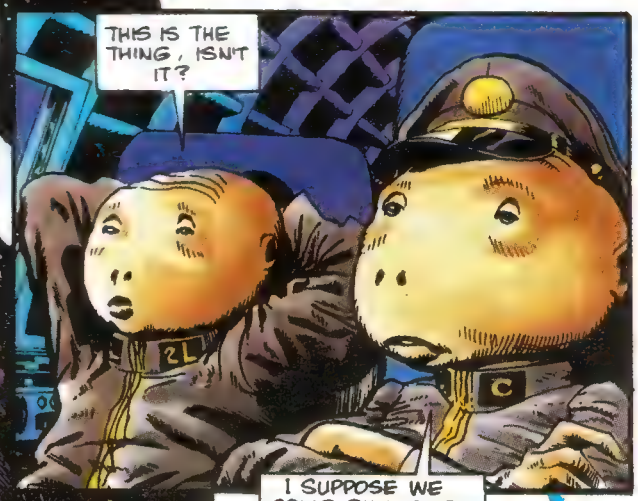
OH, DOCTOR! WHAT AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO MEET YOU! YOU'RE JUST THE MAN WE NEED!
AAAH.
I BELONG TO AN ORGANISATION THAT DESPERATELY NEEDS HELP. THE KIND OF HELP A MAN OF YOUR CALIBRE CAN OFFER!
OH, MY GOODNESS! LOOK AT THE TIME!
MY SHUTTLE LEAVES AT ANY MINUTE!
I MUST BE OFF! YOU'LL FIND WHERE TO REACH ME ON THE CARD! PLEASE, DOCTOR ... YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE!
THE 'SAVE THE ZYGLOT' TRUST : ANNUAL CONFERENCE, A.E.2120 ... 30000041 W. RIDGE BLVD. MERIDIAN CITY PL. NESTOR
CO: ORD 5000. 414. 3564.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, DOCTOR? HE LOOKED PRETTY WORRIED.
I DON'T KNOW YET...
I CAME HERE LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE BUSY. WE'VE BEEN TO THE EDGE OF THE WORLD, NOW WE'RE AT THE CENTRE.
THE CENTRE OF A GALAXY! MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF STARS ... THOUSANDS OF INHABITED PLANETS...
AND WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT ON ONE OF THEM WITH THE TREASURER OF THE 'SAVE THE ZYGLOT' TRUST...
DOCTOR IVAN ASIMOFF.


A MERE THREE MILLION MILES FROM GALENA, A CURIOUS CRAFT TRUDGED THROUGH THE OUTER GULFS... SLOPED ALONG THE EDGES OF EMPTY WORLDS, SEEKING AN ELUSIVE AND BEAUTIFUL PREY...
SO HE TURNS ROUND TO ME AND HE SAYS: IF YOU'D TAKEN THE 75 TO THE RIVER...
THEN GOT ON A 275 TO WALTHAMSTOW... MADE THE CONNECTION AT GALLOWS HILL, YOU WOULD'VE GOT HERE IN TIME FOR THE TINNED SALMON.
THIS IS IT. THOUGH I'M NOT FOND OF TINNED SALMON... I PREFER A NICE BIT OF HADDOCK OR SOMETHING...

A ZYGLOT HAS BEEN SPOTTED, CAPTAIN. A YOUNG ONE BY THE FIRST READING.
CAPTAIN TO ALL DECKS... BROWN ALERT. I REPEAT, BROWN ALERT...

USE THE GRAVITY NET... WE'LL GET ALONGSIDE IT FIRST, THOUGH.

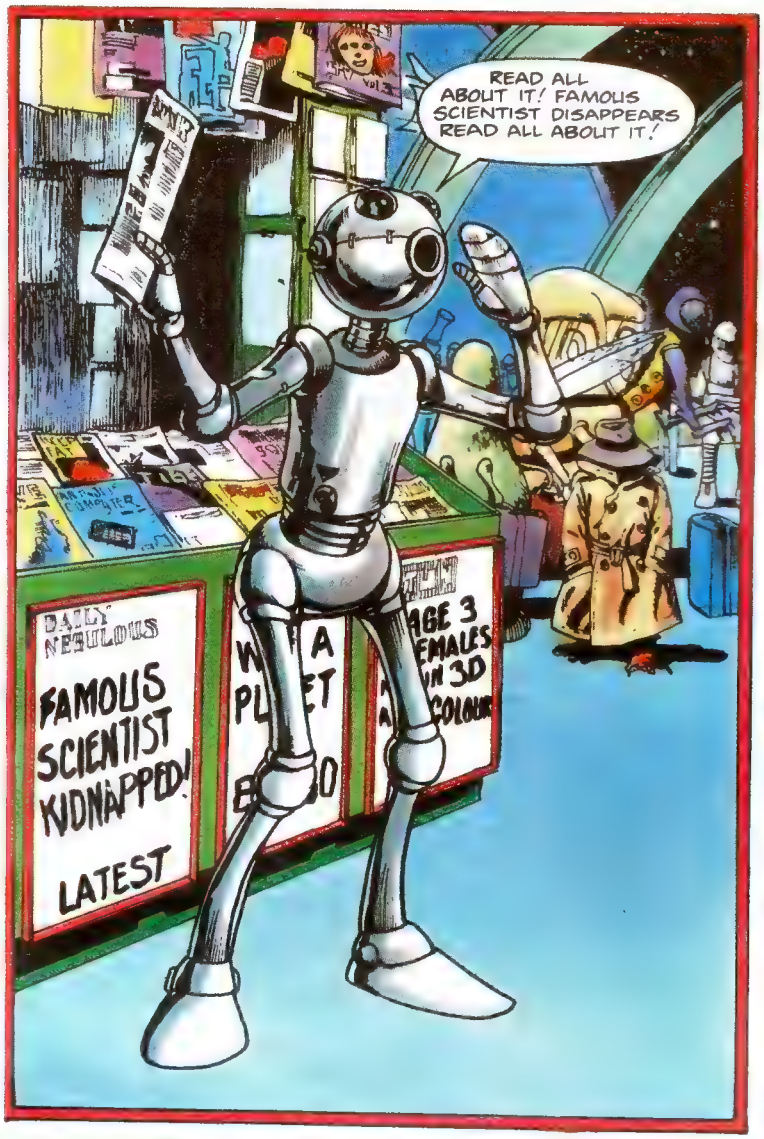
OH, YES... IT'S A YOUNG ONE ALRIGHT. LOOK HOW SQUIDGY IT IS. ALL THE YOUNG ONES ARE SQUIDGY...
AND THEY ALWAYS SPRAY RED WHEN THEY'RE CAPTURED. NEVER KNOWN ONE NOT TO.


THIS IS THE THING, ISN'T IT?
I SUPPOSE WE COULD SHIP IT UP TO THE CARNIVAL ... UP ON RINGWAY.

THE RINGWAY CARNIVAL WAS ANOTHER KIND OF CROSSROADS. LESS FUNCTIONAL THAN GALENA, BUT WITH A MACABRE CHARM OF ITS OWN...
THREE LEGGED MAN
HECK! THAT'S THE DARN'DEST THING I EVER SAW!
AMONGST THE DROSS OF A HUNDRED PLANETS ... THE FREAKS, THE GEEKS AND THE CAPTIVE SNARKS, CLOSE BY THE DRONGO WITH SEVEN STOMACHS...
SNARK
WAS THE ONLY ZYGLOT IN CAPTIVITY...
STRICTLY SPEAKING, POLLY WAS A GLOT... A SUBSPECIES OF THE ZYGLOT. BUT HER BEAUTY WAS UNDENIABLE...
ESPECIALLY TO A CERTAIN VISITOR WHO HAD RECENTLY PASSED THIS WAY...
OH, POLLY... YOU'RE SO... BEAUTIFUL.

IT WAS THEN DOCTOR IVAN ASIMOFF KNEW HE WAS IN LOVE.
ZYGLOT
PG TRIPS
PAN GALACTICA
POLLY... DON'T LOSE HEART... I'LL... RESCUE... POLLY...
I'LL SAVE YOU, POLLY!
EVERYTHING ALRIGHT, SIR?
YES... YES THANKYOU. I WAS JUST... ER, NODDING OFF.
WE'LL BE DOCKING WITH THE LINER IN A FEW MINUTES, SIR.
ANOTHER FOUR HOURS AND I'LL BE AT THE MEETING. AND WHAT DO I TELL THEM?
THAT THE ZYGLOTS ARE STILL BEING HUNTED FOR THEIR COLOURS? THAT THEY'RE BECOMING CARNIVAL SIDESHOWS?
AND THAT THE ZYGLOT TRUST IS FAILING THROUGH LACK OF FUNDS?
WELL, DOC. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT WE SHOULD DO?
YES. THE DOCTOR KNOWS I CAN'T ABIDE A MYSTERY... SO HE'S LEFT ME A MYSTERY TO CHEW ON...
SOMEWHERE IN THAT LITTLE CEPHALOPOD'S MIND, SOMETHING IS STEWING...

SO I THINK WE'LL HEAD HIM OFF AT THE DEEP-DOCKING BAYS...
JUST A SECOND, DOC! I'LL STOCK UP WITH SOME CHOCOLATE PILCHARDS!
CHOCOLATE WHAT??
VWORP! VWORP!
I DO HOPE THE DOCTOR DECIDES TO LEND A HAND. HE'D BE ABSOLUTELY INVALUABLE TO OUR CAUSE...
WELL, OF ALL THE...!
OKAY, BLUE EYES... STEP THIS WAY AND NO FANCY MOVES!
WHAT... WHAT'S GOING ON?
DOCTOR! I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION FOR THIS!
IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, DOCTOR... YOU'VE JUST BEEN KIDNAPPED!


READ ALL ABOUT IT! FAMOUS SCIENTIST DISAPPEARS READ ALL ABOUT IT!
DAILY NEBULOUS
FAMOUS SCIENTIST KIDNAPPED!
LATEST

I THINK THE DOCTOR MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THIS STORY...
FAMOUS SCIENTIST KIDNAPPED!
LATEST

SURE ENOUGH...
INTERESTING... VERY INTERESTING. I THINK THE DOCTOR MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THIS STORY...
IT'S FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT...

IN THE NEXT ROOM, DOCTOR ASIMOFF HIMSELF PREPARES FOR ANOTHER DAY OF DEPRIVATION...

AH, DOCTOR! HOW MUCH LONGER AM I TO BE SUBJECTED TO THIS ORDEAL?

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE THE ZYGLOT TRUST TO PAY A RANSOM FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN?
RANSOM? THEY COULDN'T POSSIBLY PAY A RANSOM!

THE ZYGLOT TRUST IS BROKE!
I SUSPECTED THAT. AND AS SOON AS THE PUBLIC FIND OUT, THEY'LL BE SENDING IN DONATIONS FROM FAR AND WIDE.

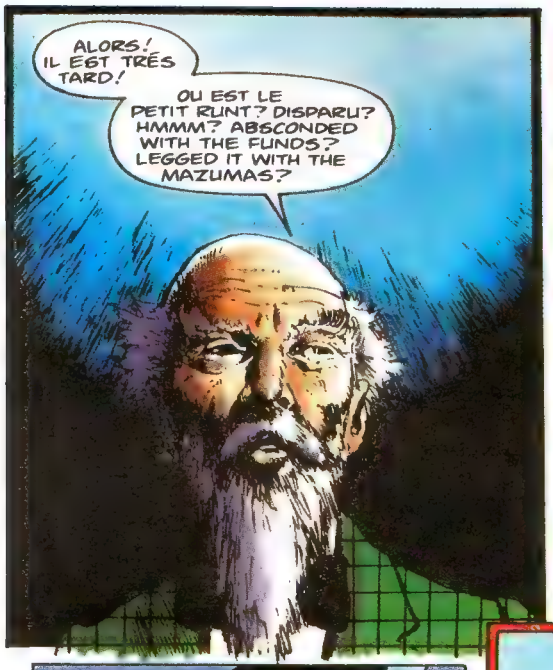
YOU MEAN...YOU KIDNAPPED ME FOR A PUBLICITY STUNT? BUT THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!
THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRUST WILL BE FURIOUS!

QUITE POSSIBLY. BY THE WAY, WHO IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRUST?

HIS NAME IS LABUS. PROFESSOR ASTRO LABUS.

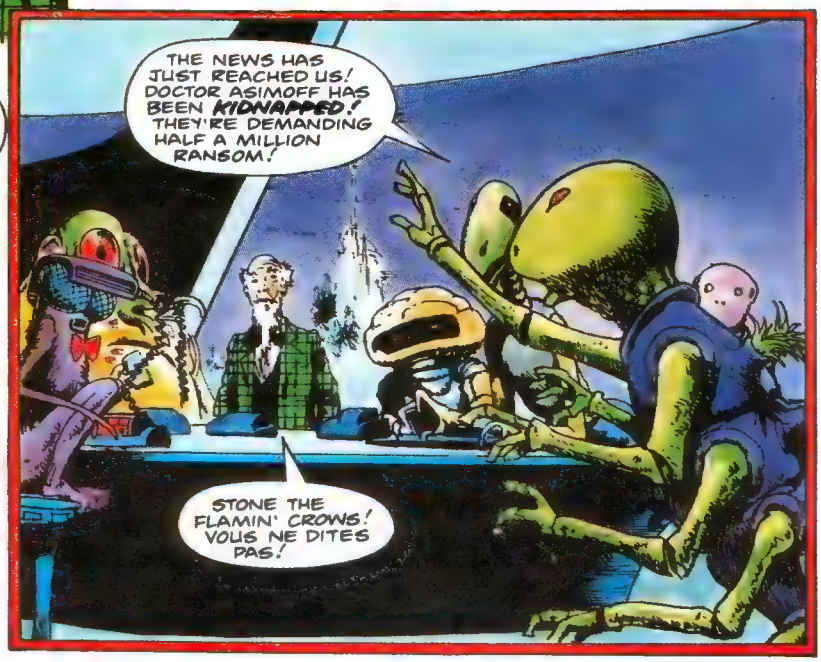
SOMETHING REVERBERATED THEN IN THE DOCTOR'S BRAIN. A SENSATION SOUNDED IN THE DEPTHS OF HIS MIND LIKE A WHALE... THE REALITY OF A FLOOR BENEATH HIS FEET SIMPLY CEASED.

...AND HE FELL.


ALORS! IL EST TRÈS TARD!
OU EST LE PETIT RUNT? DISPARU? HMMM? ABSCONDED WITH THE FUNDS? LEGGED IT WITH THE MAZUMAS?

IT'S MOST UNLIKE THE DOCTOR TO BE LATE, MISTER PRESIDENT.
NO MATTER. WE'LL START THE MEETING... SANS ASIMOFF!

I NOW CALL TO ORDER THE NINTH GENERAL MEETING OF THE SAVE THE ZYGLOT TRUST...
TAP TAP
MISTER CHAIRMAN! MISTER CHAIRMAN!


THE NEWS HAS JUST REACHED US! DOCTOR ASIMOFF HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED! THEY'RE DEMANDING HALF A MILLION RANSOM!
STONE THE FLAMIN' CROWS! VOUS NE DITES PAS!

I SMELL A RAT HERE, GENTLEMEN. I SMELL A BIG, FAT FURRY RAT...
AND THROW IN A PENGUIN FOR GOOD MEASURE!

DOCTOR? DOCTOR, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

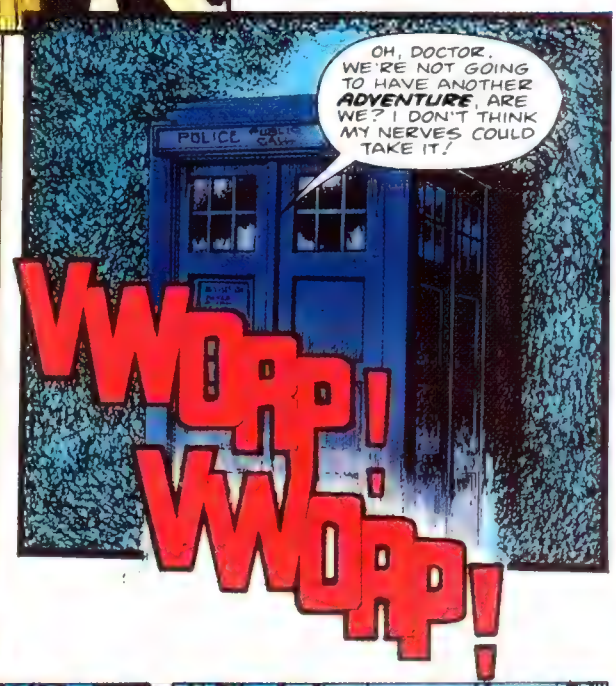
OOH... WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU MUST'VE FAINTED OR SOMETHING.

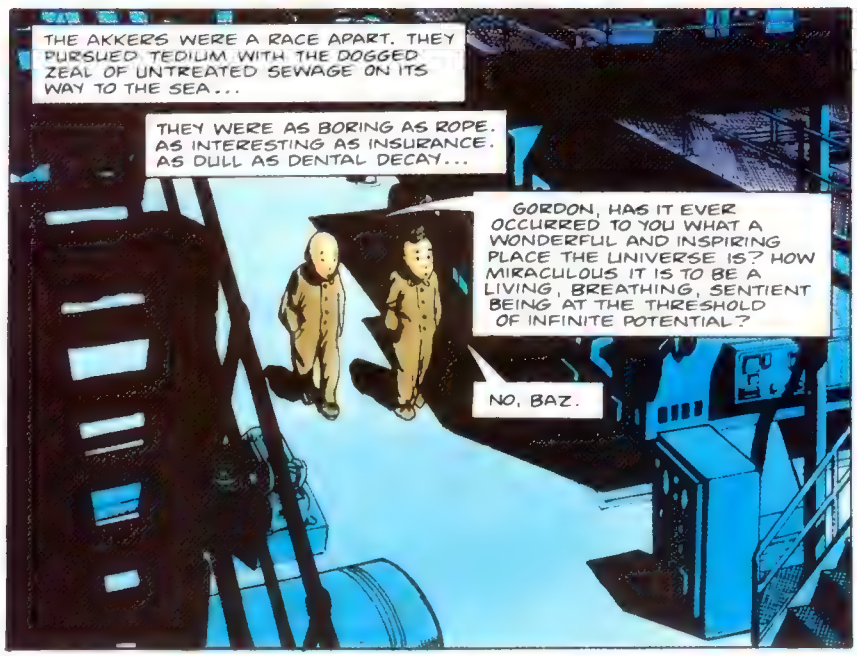
I DON'T THINK SO... I'M NOT THE FAINTING KIND...

I BELIEVE I'M UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SOME KIND OF POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION...
BUT EVEN SO, I CAN STILL THINK QUITE CLEARLY...

THE FIRST PART OF THE JIGSAW IS BEFORE OUR VERY EYES.
THE SECOND AND THIRD PARTS WILL REVEAL THEMSELVES WITH A LITTLE MORE EFFORT...

DOCTOR, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HUNTING THE ZYGLOTS...
THE AKKERS, REPUTED TO BE THE DULLEST RACE IN THE GALAXY!
QUITE SO. I THINK IT'S TIME WE PAID THEM A VISIT!


OH, DOCTOR. WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER ADVENTURE, ARE WE? I DON'T THINK MY NERVES COULD TAKE IT!
POLICE
VWORP! VWORP!


THE AKKERS WERE A RACE APART. THEY PURSUED TEDIUM WITH THE DOGGED ZEAL OF UNTREATED SEWAGE ON ITS WAY TO THE SEA...
THEY WERE AS BORING AS ROPE. AS INTERESTING AS INSURANCE. AS DULL AS DENTAL DECAY...
GORDON, HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU WHAT A WONDERFUL AND INSPIRING PLACE THE UNIVERSE IS? HOW MIRACULOUS IT IS TO BE A LIVING, BREATHING, SENTIENT BEING AT THE THRESHOLD OF INFINITE POTENTIAL?
NO, BAZ.

NO, ME NEITHER, GORDON.

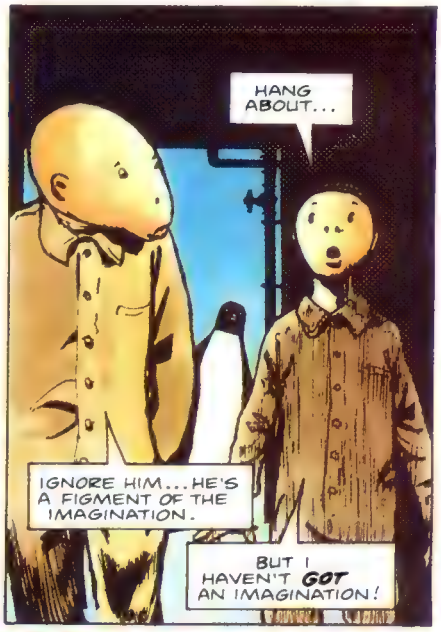
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, DOCTOR?
WE'RE AFTER INFORMATION, DOCTOR. HOW THE ZYGLOTS ARE CAPTURED, HOW THEY'RE CONTAINED ...AND WHAT MOTIVATES THE AKKERS. IF ANYTHING...

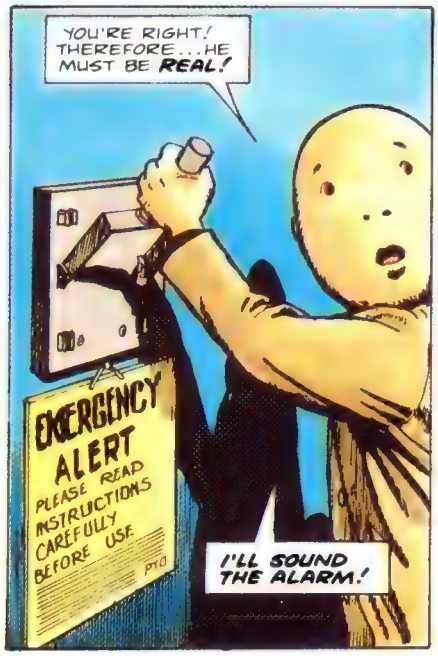
IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO BE ARMED? I DON'T FEEL QUITE COMFORTABLE WITH THIS HORRID WEAPON...
IT'S ONLY A STUN WEAPON, DOCTOR. TO DEFEND YOURSELF IN CASE WE GET SPLIT UP.

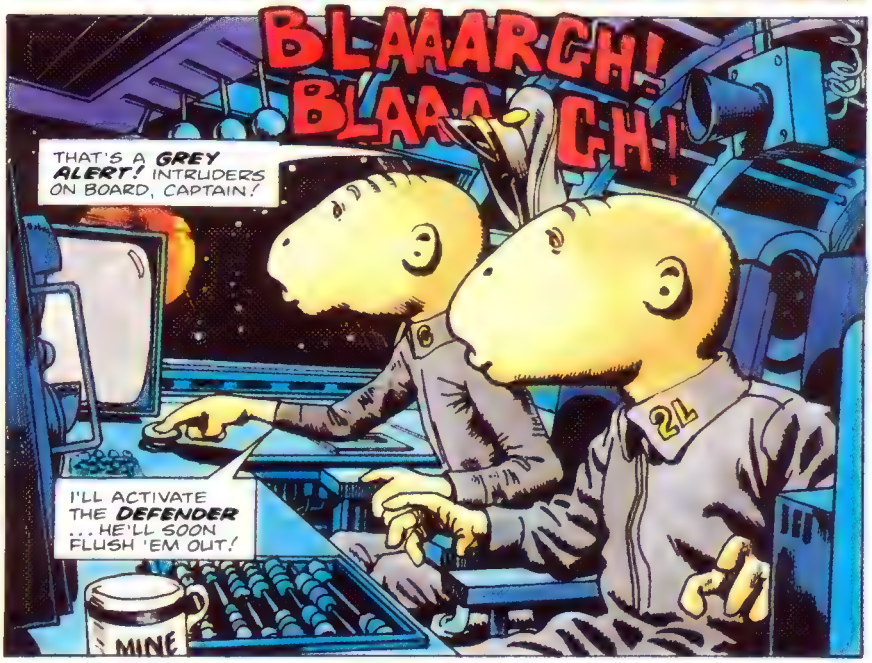
WHILE THOSE TWO PLAY HEROES, I'LL FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS RUSTBUCKET...

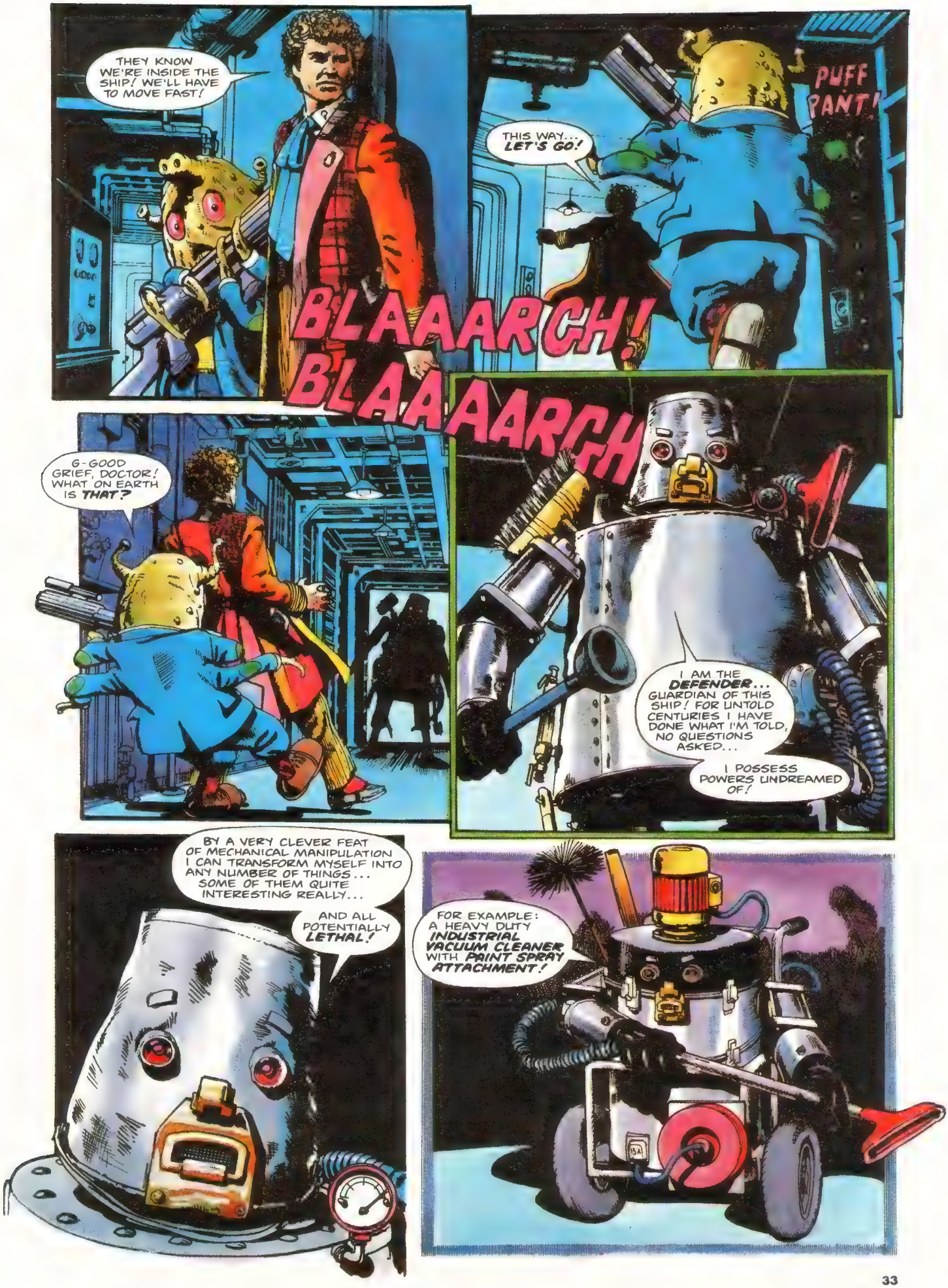
HERE'S A LIKELY LOOKING PAIR.

EXCUSE ME. WHERE DO YOU KEEP THE ZYGLOTS?


HANG ABOUT...
IGNORE HIM...HE'S A FIGMENT OF THE IMAGINATION.
BUT I HAVEN'T GOT AN IMAGINATION!

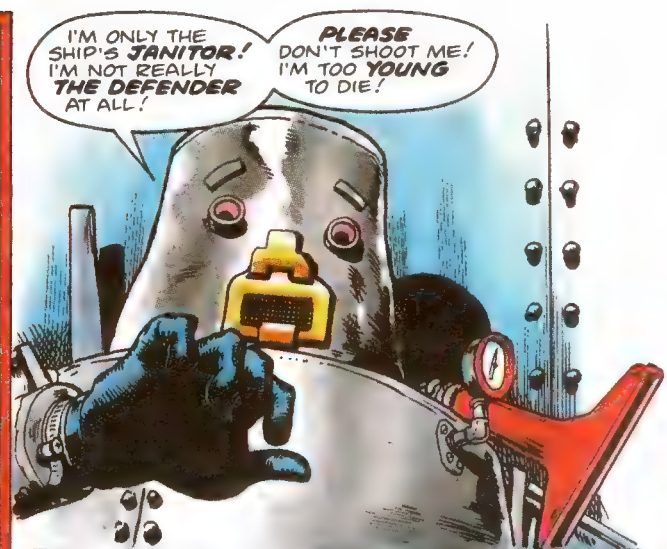

YOU'RE RIGHT! THEREFORE...HE MUST BE REAL!
EMERGENCY ALERT
PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE USE
PTO
I'LL SOUND THE ALARM!


BLAAARGH! BLAAARGH!
THAT'S A GREY ALERT! INTRUDERS ON BOARD, CAPTAIN!
I'LL ACTIVATE THE DEFENDER ...HE'LL SOON FLUSH 'EM OUT!
2L
MINE

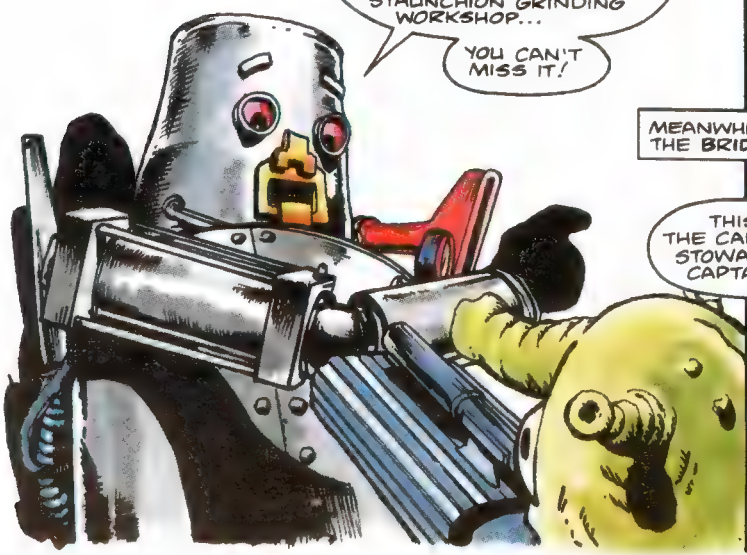

THEY KNOW WE'RE INSIDE THE SHIP! WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE FAST!
THIS WAY... LET'S GO!
PUFF PANT!
BLAAARCH!
BLAAAARCH
G-GOOD GRIEF, DOCTOR! WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?
I AM THE DEFENDER... GUARDIAN OF THIS SHIP! FOR UNTOLD CENTURIES I HAVE DONE WHAT I'M TOLD, NO QUESTIONS ASKED...
I POSSESS POWERS UNDREAMED OF!
BY A VERY CLEVER FEAT OF MECHANICAL MANIPULATION I CAN TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO ANY NUMBER OF THINGS... SOME OF THEM QUITE INTERESTING REALLY...
AND ALL POTENTIALLY LETHAL!
FOR EXAMPLE: A HEAVY DUTY INDUSTRIAL VACUUM CLEANER WITH PAINT SPRAY ATTACHMENT!

OR HOW ABOUT A SELECTION OF HIGH PRESSURE DRAIN-CLEARING EQUIPMENT?
OR A PILE OF OLD BUCKETS! IMPRESSIVE, HUH?
BEWARE MY MARTIAL SKILLS! I AM AN EXPERT WITH THE BROOM, THE SQUEEGEE AND THE BRUSH!
BUT MOST OF ALL... I AM A SPECIALIST WITH THE MOP!
BOP!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! YOU BOPPED THE DOC WITH A MOP!
MADE IN JAPAN
DON'T COME NEAR ME, YOU MONSTER! ONE STEP CLOSER AND I'LL BLAST YOU TO SMITHEREENS!

ZYGLOTS, THE RAREST CREATURES IN THE GALAXY, ARE BEING RUTHLESSLY HUNTED FOR THEIR COLOURS BY THE DULLEST RACE IN THE UNIVERSE — THE AKKERS...
BOARDING AN AKKER SHIP, THE TWO DOCTORS ARE FACED WITH A BIZARRE AND NOT QUITE DEADLY ROBOT GUARDIAN...
DON'T SHOOT! PLEASE DON'T SHOOT!


I'M ONLY THE SHIP'S JANITOR! I'M NOT REALLY THE DEFENDER AT ALL!
PLEASE DON'T SHOOT ME! I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE!

ALL RIGHT. TELL ME WHERE THE COMMANDER OF THIS SHIP IS... AND QUICK!


HE'S UP ON THE BRIDGE... TH-THAT WAY... TURN RIGHT AT THE SLUICE LOCKERS, SECOND LEFT AFTER THE SLUDGE HOLDS AND STRAIGHT THROUGH THE STAUNCHION GRINDING WORKSHOP...
YOU CAN'T MISS IT!

MEANWHILE, ON THE BRIDGE...
SO I SEE... WHAT EXACTLY IS IT?
THIS IS THE CAPTURED STOWAWAY, CAPTAIN.

ACCORDING TO MY "WONDERFUL WORLD OF NATURE" ANNUAL, IT'S A TERRAN SEA-FOWL OF THE ALCIDAE FAMILY DESCENDED FROM THE GREAT AUK, A FLIGHTLESS BIRD NOW EXTINCT...

FOUND IN LARGE NUMBERS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE, USUALLY CONGREGATING AT POLAR REGIONS WHERE THEY...
THANK YOU, I GET THE PICTURE. THE POINT IS, CAN WE MAKE ANYTHING OUT OF IT?

WE COULD ALWAYS SELL IT TO THE CARNIVAL, CAPTAIN.
GOOD. STOW IT IN THE FORWARD HOLD.
WATCH THE STEP!

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH... STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!

DOCTOR! THEY'VE GOT YOUR STRANGE LITTLE FRIEND! SHALL I ZAP 'EM?
IS THAT THE RIGHT EXPRESSION?

I APOLOGISE FOR THIS INTRUSION, CAPTAIN. BUT I WARN YOU MY FRIEND HERE IS PREPARED TO TAKE DESPERATE MEASURES.

WHAT DO YOU WANT? YOU MAY LOOK LIKE VAGABONDS, BUT YOU'RE CERTAINLY NOT PIRATES!

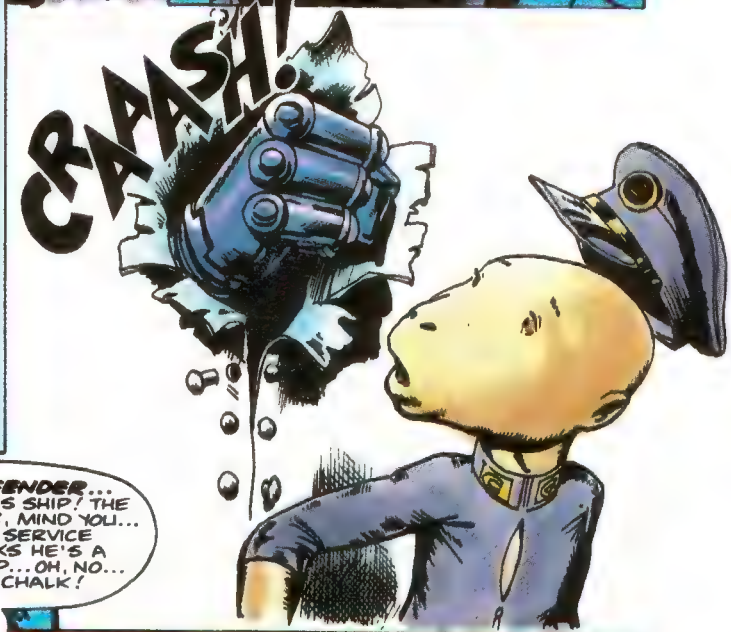
RELEASE THE ZYGLOTS! IMMEDIATELY! OR I SHALL RUN RAMPANT THROUGHOUT YOUR SHIP!
WITH MY FRIEND HERE AS WELL, OF COURSE...

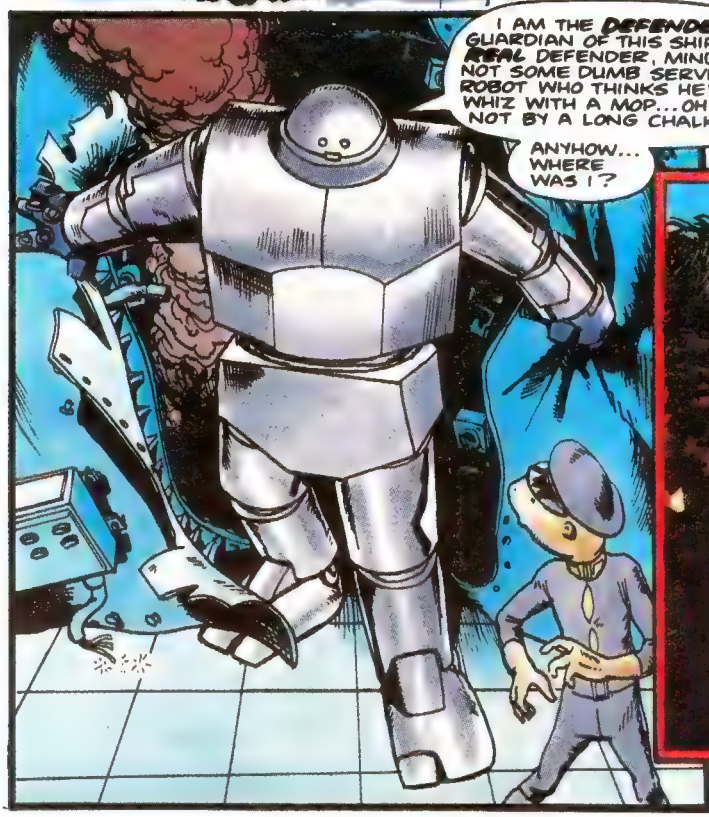
BUT WE ONLY HAVE ONE LITTLE ZYGLOT. A YOUNG ONE. NOT WORTH BOTHERING WITH REALLY. CERTAINLY NOT WORTH RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR!
I SAID RELEASE IT!

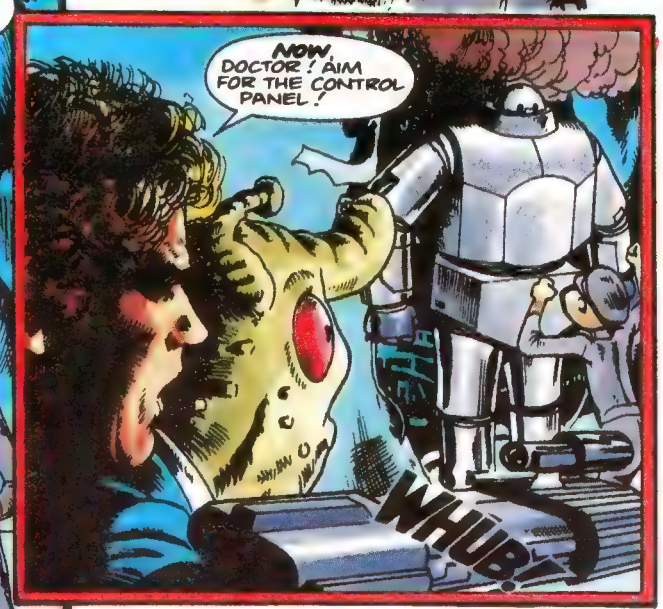
IF YOU THREATEN ME, I'LL PUSH THIS BUTTON. THE GRAVITY NET WILL TIGHTEN AND THE ZYGLOT WILL BE CRUSHED UNDER ITS OWN WEIGHT!

WHY, YOU INSIPID LITTLE WORM! IF I WASN'T A CIVILISED BEING I'D DROP YOU WHERE YOU STAND!
STEADY ON, OLD CHAP.

SO... YOU HAVE A CHOICE, HAVEN'T YOU? PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPON, OR THE ZYGLOT DIES!


CRAASH!

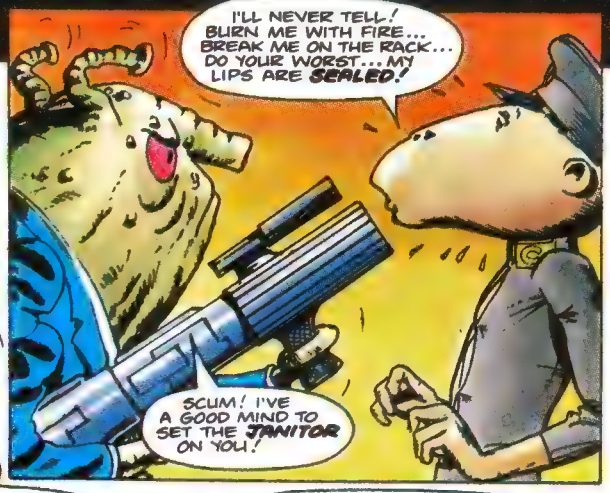

I AM THE DEFENDER... GUARDIAN OF THIS SHIP! THE REAL DEFENDER, MIND YOU... NOT SOME DUMB SERVICE ROBOT WHO THINKS HE'S A WHIZ WITH A MOP... OH, NO... NOT BY A LONG CHALK!
ANYHOW... WHERE WAS I?


NOW, DOCTOR! AIM FOR THE CONTROL PANEL!
WHUB!

FWAAB!

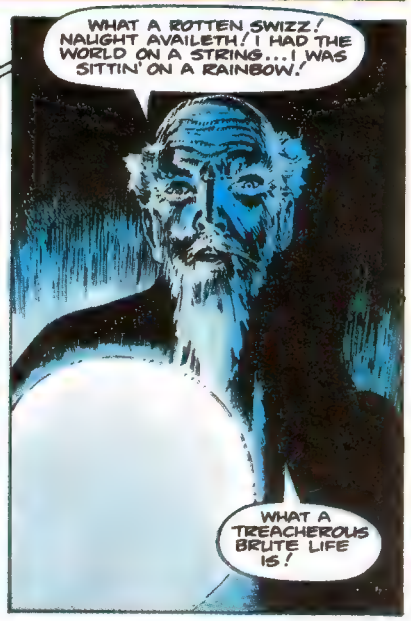
WE'VE DONE IT! THE ZYGLOT IS FREE!

WHO PUT YOU UP TO THIS? YOU HAVEN'T THE BRAINS TO ORGANISE A ZYGLOT HUNT BY YOURSELF! WHO'S PAYING YOU?


I'LL NEVER TELL! BURN ME WITH FIRE... BREAK ME ON THE RACK... DO YOUR WORST... MY LIPS ARE SEALED!
SCUM! I'VE A GOOD MIND TO SET THE JANITOR ON YOU!

CURSE YOU! IT'S THE OWNER OF THE RINGWAY CARNIVAL WHO'S PAYING US! THE GREAT SWAMI ASTRAL ARBUS!

THE LITTLE RAT! THE DIRTY LITTLE RAT! THE LITTLE PILE OF FERTILISER HAS FINKED ON ME!
AAGH! REND MY GARMENTS IN TWAIN... OR EVEN THRAIN! I AM BETRAYED!


WHAT A ROTTEN SWIZZ! NAUGHT AVAILETH! I HAD THE WORLD ON A STRING... I WAS SITTIN' ON A RAINBOW!
WHAT A TREACHEROUS BRUTE LIFE IS!

DO I HEAR A VWORP? DO I HEAR TWO VWORPS?
WHAT? ARE THEY ON TO ME SO SOON?
VWORP VWORP
THE MYSTIC ASTRAL
ASTROLOGER ROYAL
•APPENDAGES READ
•FORTUNES DIVINED
BRING YOUR OWN TEA-BAGS
SAN FAIRY ANNE! NOTHING MATTERS! EASY COME, EASY GO... ANY WAY THE WIND BLOWS...
AS THE SUN SINKS SLOWLY IN THE WEST, WE MUST SAY OUR SAD FAREWELL TO THE RINGWAY CARNIVAL... TO THE SNARKS AND THEIR LARKS AND THE MARKS AND SPARKS...
FAREWELL AND ADIEU!

BUT! ALL CREATION IS AN OYSTER... AND I AM A PEARL! A PEARL OF WISDOM, A PEARL AND DEAN. KNIT ONE, PURL ONE... A DIA-MOND AM I! AN EMERALD!

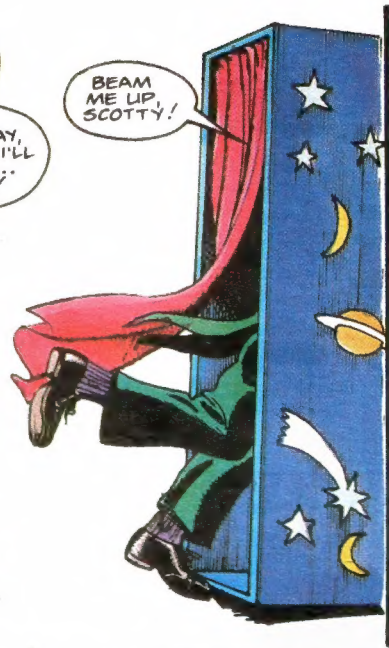
AN EMERALD SET IN A SILVER SEA! I MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEA AGAIN, TO THE LONELY SEA AND THE SKY.
~SIGH~

IT WAS A NICE SCAM WHILE IT LASTED... BUT MY HEART WASN'T IN IT. OU EST MON COEUR? IL EST DANS LA SALLE A MANGER! FRITZ SPIEGEL, I AM WASTED!
I AM COSMIC STUFF TRAPPED IN THE TIN BOX OF LIFE! I AM SPLENDOUR IN A CAN! ~SOB~

HOOTS! IT'S A WEE SLEEKIT TIMOROUS BEASTIE! BEGONE, MISCREANT!
JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE, MISTER ASTROLABUS ...OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS!

THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME, PAL! ONE FALSE MOVE AN' IT'S A FLIPPER IN THE KISSER!

NOT SO FAST, MY FINE FEATHERED FRIEND! TO THE BATPOLES, ROBIN
I'D LOVE TO STOP AND PLAY, BUT INSTEAD I'LL HAVE TO SAY... ARRIVEDERCI!


BEAM ME UP, SCOTTY!

GASP! THEY'VE GONE! VANISHED!

DOCTOR! DOCTOR! FROBISHER'S BEEN KIDNAPPED! ABDUCTED! STOLEN!

TAKE COVER, DOCTOR... THERE'S GOING TO BE AN EXPLOSION ANY MINUTE!

WH-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
I'VE ADJUSTED THE GRAVITY NULLIFIERS ON POLLY'S VOID-TRAP.

THERE'S NOW A ZERO-GRAVITY FIELD STRETCHING ABOVE THE TRAP AND INTO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE. SHE'LL BE HAPPIER UP THERE THAN IN A CAGE.

WHOOOM!
THERE SHE GOES!
THE LONG MONTHS OF CONFINEMENT AND CAPTIVITY FELL AWAY AS POLLY DRIFTED COMFORTABLY IN THE UPPER REACHES...
SHE STRETCHED HER TENDRILS LUXURIOUSLY, ALLOWING A SLIGHT BREEZE TO CARRY HER AWAY. AND IN HER DELIGHT AND EXULTATION...
SHE BLOSSOMED...

MILES BELOW HER, DOCTOR ASIMOFF STOOD ALONE AND DEJECTED...FOR POLLY HAD SAILED AWAY WITH HIS HEART. IN HELPING HER TO ESCAPE ...HE HAD LOST HER FOR EVER.
I SHOULD FEEL HAPPY...BUT I JUST FEEL WRETCHED...
OH, DOCTOR... WHAT SHALL I DO
DOCTOR?
DOCTOR!
ORP!
TRP!
TOO LATE! HE'S GONE!
BUT WHAT'S THIS?
MONEY! A SMALL FORTUNE!
AND A NOTE!
"HERE'S A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ZYGLOT TRUST, COURTESY OF INTRA-VENUS INC. ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU GOING FOR ANOTHER YEAR. THEN WHO KNOWS?
"ALWAYS LOOK TO THE FUTURE. The Doctor."
HE'S RIGHT, OF COURSE. HERE'S TO YOU, DOCTOR. TO YOU... THE FUTURE... AND THE NEXT TIME WE MEET.
AND MAY HEAVEN HELP US ALL.

The Shape-Shifter first appeared in **DWM** Issues 88-89; *Polly The Glot* first appeared in **DWM** Issues 95-97. Follow the Doctor's adventures each month in the **Doctor Who Magazine.**